

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

**FELIX LYLE COWAN,**  
Petitioner,

v.

**JIM SMITH, Superintendent,**  
Respondent.

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**CIVIL NO. 3:16-CV-3087-K-BK**

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)](#) and *Special Order 3*, this case was referred to the United States magistrate judge. For the reasons that follow, this action should be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** for want of prosecution.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On November 8, 2016, the Court issued a deficiency order, which required Petitioner to resubmit his petition for writ of habeas corpus on the appropriate form. Doc. 5. The deadline for Petitioner's response was December 9, 2016. As of the date of this recommendation, however, Petitioner has not responded to the Court's order, nor has he sought an extension of time to do so. In addition, on December 6, 2016, the deficiency order was returned to the Court as undeliverable, and Petitioner has not updated his address as of the filing of this recommendation. Doc. 16.

**II. ANALYSIS**

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or for failure to comply with the federal rules or any court order. [Larson v. Scott](#), 157 F.3d 1030, 1031 (5th Cir. 1998). "This authority flows from the court's inherent power to control its docket and prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending

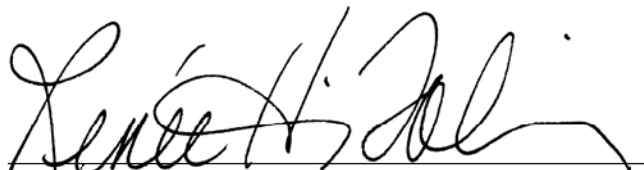
cases.” *Boudwin v. Graystone Ins. Co., Ltd.*, 756 F.2d 399, 401 (5th Cir. 1985) (citing *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626 (1962)).

Petitioner has been given ample opportunity to respond to the Court’s order. He has impliedly refused or declined to do so. Therefore, this action should be dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution. See [FED. R. CIV. P. 41\(b\)](#) (an involuntary dismissal “operates as an adjudication on the merits,” unless otherwise specified).

### **III. RECOMMENDATION**

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that this action be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** for want of prosecution.

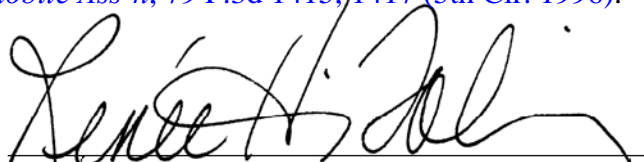
**SIGNED** December 20, 2016.



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge’s report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See *Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass’n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE